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Armstrong Wins Third Straight, Stops Patriots 79-71

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Armstrong Wins Third Straight, Stops Patriots 79-71

FRANCIS MARION

ARMSTRONG

71	Final	1	2	T	79
	FRANCIS MARION (4-6, 0-4 PBC)	40	31	71	
	ARMSTRONG (7-4, 3-1 PBC)	44	35	79	





Posted: Jan 05, 2013

SAVANNAH, Ga. - The Armstrong Atlantic State University men's basketball squad won its third straight contest with a 79-71 Peach Belt Conference victory over visiting Francis Marion University on Saturday afternoon at Alumni Arena.

The win sees the Pirates improve to 7-4 overall and 3-1 in the league, while Francis Marion falls to 4-6 overall and 0-4 in the league in suffering its fifth straight loss.

The Patriots came into the contest as the second-highest scoring team in the nation, averaging 102.0 points per contest, but it was the Pirates who made the first big run in the game, using a 22-9 run early in the first half to build a 26-16 lead with 10 minutes left in the first half.

Francis Marion closed the gap to four points, 44-40, at the break thanks to eight three-pointers in the first half - by seven different players. In the second half, Armstrong pushed the lead back to 10 points on two separate occasions in the first 10 minutes, but the

GAME LEADERS

FRANCIS MARION

Pts: Antonio Freeman - 13

Reb: Evrik Gary - 9

Ast: 6 Players (#24, #22, #44, #23, #02, #05) - 2

ARMSTRONG

Pts: Aric Miller - 24

Reb: Eric Eversley - 15

Ast: Aric Miller - 8

TEAM STATS

FRANCIS MARION

(29-76)

Field Goals

38.2%

ARMSTRONG

(31-74)

Field Goal %

41.9%

Patriots battled back to close to within one point, 67-66, on a three-pointer by Cameron Lee with 6:25 left.

A quick 6-0 run over the next two minutes stretched the lead back out to seven, and the Pirates secured several key rebounds in the final minute to shepherd out the eight-point win.

"I talked the last couple days in practice about being aggressive off the dribble," Armstrong head coach Jeremy Luther said. "They [FMU] are going to scramble, they're going to trap, they're going to press. I'm pleased with the win, but there are areas we can get better."

Senior **Aric Miller** led all scorers on the day for the Pirates with 24 points on 11-of-21 shooting from the floor, while adding 12 rebounds and eight assists, narrowly missing his second triple-double of the season. Junior **Eric Eversley** also added a double-double with 12 points and 15 rebounds, while senior **J.C. Winn** notched 14 points and nine rebounds and junior **Kenny Bellinger II** knocked down three three-pointers en route to 11 points.

Francis Marion had 14 different players score at least two points and had nine different players make at least one three-pointer, but Antonio Freeman was the only player to reach double digits, scoring 13 points on 6-of-15 shooting from the floor, including 1-of-7 from three-point range.

"For the third game in a row, we bent a little bit, but we never broke," Luther said. "That's becoming the character of this team. We're defending - when we need to get stops late, we're getting them."

The Pirates shot 41.9 percent from the floor (31-of-74) while Francis Marion shot 38.2 percent from the floor (29-of-76). Armstrong outrebounded the Patriots, 61-37, including a 22-10 edge in offensive rebounds, and the Pirates were 13-of-23 from the foul line (56.5 percent) while Francis Marion was 0-for-4 from the line.

Armstrong returns to action on Thursday, January 10th, hosting Lander in a 7:30 p.m. Peach Belt Conference contest at Alumni Arena.

37	Rebounds	61
13	Assists	14
12	Turnovers	16
12	Pts off Turnovers	6
6	2nd Chance Pts	25
40	Bench Pts	12

FULL STATS



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY IS ONE OF THE PREMIER NCAA DIVISION II COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS IN THE NATION, FEATURING 13 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS, 97 PEACH BELT CONFERENCE CHAMPIONS, 148 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS APPEARANCES AND 302 ALL-AMERICANS.

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